



THOMAS L. GARTHWAITE, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

FRED LEAF
Chief Operating Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
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March 28, 2003

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Thomas L. Garthwaite", is written over the printed name and title.

SUBJECT: **ROBERT F. KENNEDY MEDICAL CENTER- HANDLING OF DECEASED BODIES**

On November 13, 2002, the Board approved a motion by Supervisor Burke instructing this Department's Health Facilities Division to investigate the manner in which Robert F. Kennedy Medical Center handled the disposition of Armando Chapal Ramirez's remains as well as the medical center's general handling of deceased bodies. This is an update to the December 13, 2002 report.

On November 1, 2002, in response to a previous complaint, an unannounced visit was made to Robert F. Kennedy Medical Center. During the investigation it was discovered that the facility had one body that had been in the morgue for 10 months and another body that had been there over a year. The hospital was cited, pursuant to the California Code of Regulations, in the areas of Nursing Service Policies and Procedures, Governing Body, and Organized Medical Staff. The facility was also required to submit a Plan of Correction identifying the methods they have instituted to correct and prevent the deficient practices.

This is to advise you that the facility has submitted evidence of compliance along with an acceptable Plan of Correction. The Plan of Correction identifies how the deficient practices were corrected and what methods have been instituted to prevent any further re-occurrence.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

TLG:ep
303:009

c Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Chief Administrative Officer